



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Western District of Texas

JOHNNY SUTTON
United States Attorney

601 NW Loop 410 STE 600
San Antonio, Texas 78216

(210)384-7400
FAX: (210)384-7474

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2002

On the Web at: WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/TXW/INDEX.HTML

Contact: AUSA Mark Roomberg
(915) 686-4110

**MIDLAND MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGE
IN CONNECTION WITH OPERATION CANDYMAN**

(MIDLAND, TEXAS) This afternoon, 63-year-old **JOEL KINZIE OLDHAM** pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of receiving and possessing obscene materials. As a result, Oldham faces up to five years.

Oldham initially became a target of this investigation when a Houston FBI agent traced his name from the Candyman subscriber group. The Candyman group transmitted images of child pornography via the Internet. Based on that information, the Midland FBI office obtained a search warrant for Oldham's Midland home and his computers. On April 17, 2002, the federal grand jury for the Midland-Odessa Division returned an indictment charging Oldham with one count of receiving child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography. Shortly after the indictment was handed down, the United States Supreme Court handed down their opinion in the *Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition* case that held that the government must prove the images of the children in these type of photographs must in fact be real children and not computer-generated images. On May 15, the United States Attorney's Office then sought a superseding indictment against Oldham charging him with one count of receiving and possessing obscene materials over the Internet.

At this afternoons hearing, the United States Attorney's Office announced that it was prepared to prove through eye-witness testimony, photographs and chat logs from the defendant's computers, and affidavits from records custodians for Internet provider computer servers that Oldham knowingly took and received obscene, lewd, lascivious, and filthy pictures, motion-picture films, papers, letters, writings, prints, and other matter of indecent character from over the Internet via his computer. The government's factual basis stated that from on or about February 9, 1999 to on or about December 11, 2001, Oldham received over the Internet: (1) dozens of images of bestiality, e.g., humans having sexual relations with animals, (2) around a dozen images of children involving sexually explicit activity including several involving prepubescent children, and, (3) images of sado-masochistic behavior. These photographs and movies were transmitted through and/or from Russia, Virginia, North Carolina, and California. Additionally, the defendant both transmitted and received over the Internet via his computer numerous chat logs where Oldham pretended to be a 36-year-old bi-sexual female named "Sandi" with the screen registration of "Cindibi," and discussed sexual acts with minors, animals, and sado-masochistic behavior. The vast majority of these chat logs that ranged from February 1999 to December 2001 involved material relating to sexual acts with minors, some as young as eight years-old.

Furthermore, the United States was prepared to present testimony from the proprietor of an adult-oriented store that the proprietor did not believe it was legal to sell images of bestiality and child pornography, and even if the proprietor believed that it was in fact legal to sell such images, the proprietor would not do so because of the nature of those types of images.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark Roomberg.

#####